## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A cable winder guide for winding cable, comprising:
  - a cylindrical drum having a cylindrical surface;
  - a shaft rotatably mounting said cylindrical drum;
  - a drive for rotating said cylindrical drum about said shaft;
  - a helical groove defined in said cylindrical surface for retrieving and releasing the cable upon rotation of said cylindrical drum; and
  - a cable retainer resiliently engaging the cable when the cable is located within said helical groove for maintaining said cable within said helical groove.
- 2. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameter.
- 3. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 4. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said cable retainer comprises a polymeric material.
- 5. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said cable retainer comprises a mixture of polyethylene and polypropylene material.

- 6. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters; and said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 7. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and a length substantially equal to said helical groove in said cylindrical surface of said drum.
- 8. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters; said cable retainer comprising a polymeric material and defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 9. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said cable retainer comprises a polymeric material and defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 10. A cable winder guide for winding cable, comprising:
  - a cylindrical drum having a cylindrical surface;
  - a shaft rotatably mounting said cylindrical drum;
  - a drive for rotating said cylindrical drum about said shaft;

- a helical groove defined in said cylindrical surface for retrieving and releasing the cable upon rotation of said cylindrical drum;
- a cable retainer resiliently engaging the cable when the cable is located within said helical groove for maintaining said cable within said helical groove; and said cable retainer comprising a polymeric material.
- 11. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters.
- 12. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 13. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters; and said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 14. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and a length substantially equal to said helical groove in said cylindrical surface of said drum.

- 15. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 10, wherein said helical groove has a depth, wherein said depth of groove in said drum is substantially greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters; said cable retainer retainer comprising a polymeric material; and said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 16. A cable winder guide for winding cable, comprising:
  - a cylindrical drum having a cylindrical surface;
  - a shaft rotatably mounting said cylindrical drum;
  - a drive for rotating said cylindrical drum about said shaft;
  - a helical groove defined in said cylindrical surface for retrieving and releasing the cable upon rotation of said cylindrical drum;
  - said helical groove having a depth greater than one half and less than three quarters cable diameters;
  - a cable retainer resiliently engaging the cable when the cable is located within said helical groove for maintaining said cable within said helical groove; and
  - said cable retainer defining a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and less than said drum diameter plus two cable diameters.
- 17. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 16, wherein said cable retainer comprises a polymeric material.
- 18. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 16, wherein said cable retainer comprises a

polyethylene and polypropylene mixture material.

19. A cable winder guide as set forth in Claim 16, wherein said cable retainer defines a substantially semi-cylindrical shape having a diameter greater than said drum diameter and a length substantially equal to said helical groove in said cylindrical surface of said drum.